

REMARKS

Applicants reiterate their position set forward in their earlier-filed petition to make special that the present claims exhibit unity of invention. However, to maintain special status of the application, election is made of the examiner's group I, i.e., claims 1-8, and the remaining claims are withdrawn from consideration. Further, claim 1 is amended herein to correct certain typographical errors.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are in condition for allowance, and request that the application be passed to issuance.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees to Deposit Account No. 11-0345. Please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
KEIL & WEINKAUF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David C. Liechty', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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**MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE**

Amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (currently amended): A multimetal oxide of the formula I



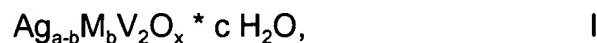
where M is a metal selected from the group consisting of Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs, Tl, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, Cu, Zn, Cd, Pb, Cr, Au, Al, Fe, Co, Ni and/or Mo,

- a is from 0.3 to 1.9 and
- b is from 0 to 0.5, with the proviso that the difference (a-b) is greater than or equal to 0.1 and
- c is from 0 to 20 and
- x is a number determined by the valence and amount of elements different from oxygen in the formula I,

which has a crystal structure giving an X-ray powder diffraction pattern which displays reflections at the lattice spacings d of  $15.23 \pm 0.6$ ,  $12.16 \pm 0.4$ ,  $10.68 \pm 0.3$ ,  $3.41 \pm 0.04$ ,  $3.09 \pm 0.04$ ,  $3.02 \pm 0.04$ ,  $2.36 \pm 0.04$  and  $1.80 \pm 0.04$  Å.

**COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION**

1. (currently amended): A multimetal oxide of the formula I



where M is a metal selected from the group consisting of Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs, Tl, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, Cu, Zn, Cd, Pb, Cr, Au, Al, Fe, Co, Ni and/or Mo,

a is from 0.3 to 1.9 and

b is from 0 to 0.5, with the proviso that the difference (a-b) is greater than or equal to 0.1 and

c is from 0 to 20 and

x is a number determined by the valence and amount of elements different from oxygen in the formula I,

which has a crystal structure giving an X-ray powder diffraction pattern which displays reflections at the lattice spacings d of  $15.23 \pm 0.6$ ,  $12.16 \pm 0.4$ ,  $10.68 \pm 0.3$ ,  $3.41 \pm 0.04$ ,  $3.09 \pm 0.04$ ,  $3.02 \pm 0.04$ ,  $2.36 \pm 0.04$  and  $1.80 \pm 0.04$  Å.

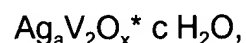
2. (original): A multimetal oxide as claimed in claim 1 which has a fibrous crystal morphology having a mean ratio of fiber diameter to fiber length of less than 0.6.

3. (original): A multimetal oxide as claimed in claim 1 which has a specific surface area determined by the BET method of from 3 to 250 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

4. (original): A multimetal oxide as claimed in claim 1 in which a is from 0.5 to 1.0, b is from 0 to 0.3 and c is from 0 to 5.

5. (original): A multimetal oxide as claimed in claim 1 in which a is from 0.6 to 0.9, b is from 0 to 0.1 and c is from 0 to 1.

6. (original): A multimetal oxide as claimed in claim 1 and having the formula



where a is from 0.6 to 0.9, x is as defined in claim 1 and c is from 0 to 5.

7. (original): A multimetal oxide as claimed in claim 1 whose X-ray powder diffraction pattern displays the following 17 reflections at the specified lattice spacings d [Å]:

| Reflections | d [Å]       |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1           | 15.23 ± 0.6 |
| 2           | 12.16 ± 0.4 |
| 3           | 10.68 ± 0.3 |
| 4           | 5.06 ± 0.06 |
| 5           | 4.37 ± 0.04 |
| 6           | 3.86 ± 0.04 |
| 7           | 3.41 ± 0.04 |
| 8           | 3.09 ± 0.04 |
| 9           | 3.02 ± 0.04 |
| 10          | 2.58 ± 0.04 |
| 11          | 2.48 ± 0.04 |
| 12          | 2.42 ± 0.04 |
| 13          | 2.36 ± 0.04 |
| 14          | 2.04 ± 0.04 |
| 15          | 1.93 ± 0.04 |
| 16          | 1.80 ± 0.04 |

|    |             |
|----|-------------|
| 17 | 1.55 + 0.04 |
|----|-------------|

8. (original): A multimetal oxide as claimed in claim 7 whose reflections 1 to 17 have the following approximate relative intensities ( $I_{rel}$  [%]):

| Reflections | $I_{rel}$ [%] |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1           | 16            |
| 2           | 11            |
| 3           | 18            |
| 4           | 11            |
| 5           | 23            |
| 6           | 16            |
| 7           | 80            |
| 8           | 61            |
| 9           | 100           |
| 10          | 23            |
| 11          | 24            |
| 12          | 23            |
| 13          | 38            |
| 14          | 26            |
| 15          | 31            |
| 16          | 43            |
| 17          | 36            |

Claims 9-26 (Withdrawn).